



JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS NEW MEMBERS TO UTAH BOARD OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

(Salt Lake City, Utah) - Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. has appointed James T. Jensen and Kelly L. Payne to the Utah Board of Oil, Gas and Mining. Both appointments were effective March 1, 2009.

Jensen recently served as executive vice president and general counsel to the Savage Companies in Salt Lake City. He retired from that position in July 2008 but still consults with the company on projects and developments and assists with legal matters. Originally from Price, Utah, Jensen practiced law there for 22 years. He is also a landowner and mineral interest owner with expertise in surface use agreements, oil and gas leases, and oil and gas royalty payments. Jensen represents mineral and royalty interests on the board.

Payne manages restoration of land, groundwater, and wetland resources that have been impacted by past mining practices for Kennecott Utah Copper. Prior to joining Kennecott in 2004, he worked as a consultant in the Utah and Central Appalachian coal industries focusing on analyzing and predicting mining impacts to groundwater and surface water supplies, mine permitting, and environmental due diligence. He also has experience in the environmental aspects of oil shale and natural gas production. Payne represents mining interests on the board.

The Board of Oil, Gas and Mining is a quasi-judicial body appointed by the Governor that rules on oil and gas spacing and pooling issues, provides mineral and energy resources policy guidance to the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, and hears appeals of division decisions. The board is comprised of seven members, each providing a particular expertise in oil and gas, mining, royalty matters, environmental protection or geology.

"Both gentlemen bring with them the highest credentials in oil, gas and mining matters and will no doubt make a positive contribution to our mission," said Board Chairman Douglas Johnson. "The experience and professionalism exhibited by these two men will help ensure that the board continues to operate in the best interests of the citizens of Utah."

Jensen replaces Kent R. Peterson and Payne will take the seat of Robert J. Bayer. Both Peterson and Bayer served on the board since March 2001.

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